

**VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes of September 25, 2007**

- I. **ROLL CALL:** Chair Jim Wilson, Trustees Samantha Baraw, Libby Hambleton, Thomas McCarney, and Richard Sutor. Also present were Village Manager Nanci Allard, Kate D'Amico (Greater Northfield Coalition Council), Carol Jean Sutor (Hunger Forum Committee), Roy Williams, Kathleen Lott (Northfield News and Transcript), and Anne Gould (Hunger Forum Committee).

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. (at the conclusion of the Special Village Meeting).

II. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Scheduled):**

- a. **Kate D'Amico: Greater Northfield Coalition Council.** The GNCC oversees Northfield/Roxbury Drug Free Communities. There are many programs that are sponsored through this grant. The grant was awarded again this year for \$92,653.
- b. **Anne Gould: Hunger Forum Committee.** Starting this week, there will be an outpost twice a month (2nd and 4th Thursdays) for food stamps at the Making a Difference Resource Center. It is strongly recommended that those applying for food stamps call and make an appointment (please call 479-1041 or go to www.vermontfoodhelp.com).

III. **ACTION ITEMS**

a. **Approval of Minutes**

- 1. **September 11, 2007 (Regular Meeting).** Motion by Trustee Hambleton, seconded by Trustee Sutor, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

b. **Approval of Bills**

- 1. **Warrant #07-08.** Motion by Trustee Sutor, seconded by Trustee Hambleton, to approve Warrant #07-08 in the amount of \$70,351.69. One of the items on the warrant is a payment to Green Mountain Clock Shop (Larry Porter) for work on the Village Clock. The clock was given in 1951 and is starting to not work. There are four separate clock motors running this clock. Two of them are failing and require constant resetting. The electric components do not recognize daylight savings time. The striker does not work and is not capable of being reworked again. The proposal is for \$7498 in hardware and \$2999.30 for work. The deposit is for \$2999.20. Mr. Porter would also need to have the hands pulled down and the back repainted. There is also a problem with the church structure that is holding the clock. That cost is \$40,000. It is undetermined how much it would cost for the face of the clock. Motion by Trustee Sutor, seconded by Trustee McCarney, to follow the proposal for fixing the clock as outlined to include the clock face with an agreement with the church on the proprietorship of the clock's face. **Motion passed 5-0-0.** More work is needed and more money is needed as well for this project. **Motion to approve Warrant #07-08 passed 4-0-1, with Trustee McCarney abstaining due to the possible appearance of conflict of interest on warrant items.**
- 2. **Warrant #07-08A:** Motion by Trustee Sutor, seconded by Trustee Hambleton, to approve Warrant #07-08A in the amount of \$14,475.08. There was a discrepancy in the cost that was approved and the amount that was paid. This item tabled until next meeting.

- c. **Special Village Meeting Warning (Water Distribution System Improvements Bond).** Motion by Trustee Sutor, seconded by Trustee McCarney, to approve the warning. There will be a public hearing on November 1, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. and the vote is by Australian Ballot on November 6, 2007 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Northfield High School. This cost has been reviewed by the contractor and he still feels this is an accurate number. There was discussion that there needs to be more promotion of this project. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

- d. **Public Hearing (Water Distribution System Improvements Bond).** Motion by Trustee Sutor, seconded by Trustee Hambleton, to approve the hearing for November 1, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

- e. **Approval of Loan Amendment #1 (Water Project).** Motion by Trustee McCarney, seconded by Trustee Sutor, to approve an amendment to our existing State Revolving Loan to plan for the Water System project and authorize the Chair to sign the form. The amendment increases the amount of the existing loan from 83,000 to \$90,500 and gives us an additional \$7,500 to pay for the environmental study required by our financing application to Rural Development. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
- f. **APPA Electric Market Reform Initiative.** This payment is for the lobbyists. Each individual utility can decide whether or not it wishes to participate. Trustee Sutor spoke in favor of this, stating that this has been beneficial for Northfield in the past. Motion by Trustee Sutor, seconded by Trustee Hambleton, to approve the initiative. **Motion failed 2-2-1, with Trustees Sutor and Baraw in favor, Trustees McCarney and Wilson voting in opposition, and Trustee Hambleton abstaining.**
- g. **Village Clock Maintenance:** See discussion above.

IV. REPORTS

- a. **Village Manager:**
 - 1. **East Central Fiber Network:** This group is looking to get participants for this group and Northfield has been asked to join. The goal is to get a high-speed internet system available for all. The estimated cost of this project is 32,000,000. It is the consensus of the Board that the Village is not interested but the Selectboard is welcome to look into it.
 - 2. **Municipal Roof Damage.** There was damage done to the roof last winter and the insurance company has paid us. We have received a quote, but it did not go out to bid. They paid us \$4800 for one side; the Manager wants to fix both sides. Should we go out for bid? Bill got several estimates prior to submitting to the insurance company. Consensus of the Board was that the roof is to be repaired and the Manager is to supply copies of the other quotes that were received and to get costs to paint/repair the rusted portions of the roof and present to the Board at the next meeting
- b. **Committee Reports:** There were none.
- c. **Miscellaneous**
 - 1. **Efficiency Vermont Project update:** The group will meet this Thursday night. Trustee Sutor would also like to see LED lights used for holiday decorations on the bushes outside the Municipal Building.
 - 2. **Village Common:** The Common is being trashed again and it's taking two (2) Highway employees anywhere from one-half to a full hour to clean it up each morning.
 - 3. **Purchasing Policy:** The current purchasing policy was discussed and it was discussed to evaluate the policy. We will give the policy more time and discuss later.
 - 4. **Water Street.** There was the discussion of the Quit Claim Deeds on Water Street.
 - 5. **Garvey Hill Site Visit.** The Board will need to approve minutes from the site visit and prepare a parking ordinance.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Unscheduled): None.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Trustee Sutor, seconded by Trustee Baraw, to adjourn. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 9:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha H. Baraw

Samantha H. Baraw, Clerk

These minutes are subject to approval at the next regular meeting.